







# All Saints CE (VC) First School and Busy Bees Pre-School

**Caring, Succeeding, Flourishing.**  
Whilst carrying our values in our HEARTS,  
I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

**Headteacher: Mr David Elliott-Hancock**

 [www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  01782 791234  Church Lane, Standon, Staffordshire, ST21 6RN  
 [office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  All Saints CE First School, Standon  @allsaintsstandon



1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents,

## September Class Structure – Frequently Asked Questions

Following my recent letter regarding our move to a two-class structure from September, I would like to thank you for your continued support and for the thoughtful questions that have been shared.

We understand that this is a significant change, and it is important to us that you feel well-informed and reassured. Below are responses to the most frequently raised questions.

---

### Will combining year groups mean larger class sizes than children are used to?

Spires Class will be larger than the children are currently used to, with 27 pupils. However, this remains below the typical class size of 30 seen in most primary schools and is only slightly larger than the current Rowan Class cohort.

Locomotives Class will remain small, with approximately 11 children, allowing us to continue providing a strong, nurturing foundation for our youngest pupils.

---

### Will there be teaching assistants in the classroom?

Support staff timetabling is still being finalised. However, we are committed to ensuring that all children are supported appropriately where needed.

We are fortunate to have a high level of staffing for a school of our size, particularly when compared to many schools that operate with one teacher to around 30 pupils. This allows us to deploy support staff effectively to enhance teaching, provide targeted support and respond to individual needs.

---



# All Saints CE (VC) First School and Busy Bees Pre-School

**Caring, Succeeding, Flourishing,**  
Whilst carrying our values in our HEARTS,  
I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

**Headteacher: Mr David Elliott-Hancock**

 [www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  01782 791234  Church Lane, Standon, Staffordshire, ST21 6RN

 [office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  All Saints CE First School, Standon  @allsaintsstandon



## How will the curriculum be taught across three year groups?

Mixed-age teaching is well established and something we already do successfully.

From September:

- Maths will continue to be taught in year groups
- Phonics, spelling and reading will be grouped by ability and/or year group
- English and the wider curriculum will be delivered through topic-based learning, with clear differentiation to ensure each year group's objectives are fully met

This ensures that all children receive learning that is appropriate, challenging and aligned to the National Curriculum.

---

## How will you ensure that each child receives enough attention?

This remains a key priority.

By moving to two classes, we are able to:

- Streamline staffing
- Allocate additional adult support within classrooms
- Provide targeted support where it is most needed

Combined with strong teacher knowledge of the children and careful assessment, this ensures that no child is overlooked and all pupils are supported to succeed.

---



# All Saints CE (VC) First School and Busy Bees Pre-School

**Caring, Succeeding, Flourishing.**  
Whilst carrying our values in our HEARTS,  
I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

**Headteacher: Mr David Elliott-Hancock**

 [www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  01782 791234  Church Lane, Standon, Staffordshire, ST21 6RN

 [office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  All Saints CE First School, Standon  @allsaintsstandon



## Which classrooms will be used? Will they feel overcrowded?

Classroom allocation has been carefully planned:

- Locomotives Class will be based in the current Busy Bees and Cherry classrooms, allowing full use of free-flow provision and the outdoor learning area
- Spires Class will be based in the current Rowan classroom

Health and Safety considerations have been thoroughly reviewed alongside the local authority, ensuring the space is suitable for the number of pupils.

In addition, we will also utilise:

- The Kingfisher Room
- The current Oak classroom

These spaces will provide valuable breakout areas for group work, interventions and quieter learning opportunities

---

## How will staffing work in Spires Class?

Spires Class will benefit from two experienced teachers:

- Mrs Devenport – Monday to Thursday
- Mrs Abbotts – Friday

This structure provides:







- Consistency in teaching across the week
- Additional planning and preparation time to support the demands of a larger mixed-age class
- Capacity for both teachers to continue to fulfil their wider leadership responsibilities within school



# All Saints CE (VC) First School and Busy Bees Pre-School

**Caring, Succeeding, Flourishing.**  
Whilst carrying our values in our HEARTS,  
I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

**Headteacher: Mr David Elliott-Hancock**

 [www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  01782 791234  Church Lane, Standon, Staffordshire, ST21 6RN  
 [office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  All Saints CE First School, Standon  @allsaintsstandon



## Will the way classrooms operate change?

The day-to-day experience for the children will remain largely the same.

As a school, we have always operated with mixed-age classes, so:

- Timetables
- Teaching approaches
- Daily routines

will continue in a familiar way.

The main difference will be the size of the class and the combination of year groups, rather than any fundamental change to how the school day feels.

---

## Have other schools successfully used this model?

Yes. Three year-group classes are common in smaller primary schools, particularly those with fluctuating pupil numbers.

In planning this structure, we have:

- Sought advice from educational consultants
- Worked with the Diocese
- Consulted the local authority

In addition, all teaching staff have previous experience of working in mixed-age settings, including delivering learning across three year groups.

---



# All Saints CE (VC) First School and Busy Bees Pre-School

**Caring, Succeeding, Flourishing.**  
Whilst carrying our values in our HEARTS,  
I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

Headteacher: Mr David Elliott-Hancock

 [www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  01782 791234  Church Lane, Standon, Staffordshire, ST21 6RN

 [office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  All Saints CE First School, Standon  @allsaintsstandon



## Is this structure sustainable long-term?

This change is a proactive step in response to rapidly falling pupil projections.

By restructuring now, we aim to:

- Secure the long-term sustainability of the school
- Maintain high-quality education for all pupils

We will continue to monitor numbers carefully. Support from our community—including positive word of mouth and promotion of the school—plays an important role in sustaining and growing our pupil numbers.

## How will children with SEND be supported?

We remain fully committed to supporting all children, including those with Special Educational Needs.

Schools are legally required to meet the needs of pupils with SEND, and at All Saints we are proud of our strong provision.

We have:

- A highly skilled and experienced staff team
- Strong knowledge of individual pupils and their needs
- A commitment to maintaining the high standard of SEND support currently in place

This will continue to be a key priority within the new structure.

## Will there be an opportunity for parents to discuss this further?

At this stage, we hope that this FAQ addresses many of your questions.

However, we are open to arranging an informal question-and-answer session for parents if there is sufficient interest. This would likely take place after the transition days, allowing staff and children the opportunity to experience the new structure first-hand prior to this.



# All Saints CE (VC) First School and Busy Bees Pre-School

**Caring, Succeeding, Flourishing,**  
Whilst carrying our values in our HEARTS,  
I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

**Headteacher: Mr David Elliott-Hancock**

 [www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  01782 791234  Church Lane, Standon, Staffordshire, ST21 6RN

 [office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@allsaints-standon.staffs.sch.uk)  All Saints CE First School, Standon  @allsaintsstandon



## Final Thoughts

We understand that change can bring uncertainty, but we firmly believe that this new structure will allow us to:

- Maintain high standards of teaching and learning
- Support children's wellbeing and development
- Secure a sustainable future for our school

As always, we value your support and partnership.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With warm regards,

David Elliott-Hancock  
Headteacher

